

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01552 081457Z

51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 DRC-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 OIC-04 /243 W

----- 036645

R 081430Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4518

INFO AMEMBASSY REJKJAVIK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL AND ICELAND RESTRICTIONS

REF: (A) GENEVA 1460

(B) STATE 44981

1. GATT COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM MARCH 15 TO MARCH 28 DUE SUDDEN TRAVEL NEEDS OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN LAI (TRIPOLI MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES). THIS CHANGE BECAME KNOWN AFTER MISSION INFORMED ICELAND PERMREP BENEDIKTSSSEN THAT US WISHED PLACE ICELAND DISINVOCATION ARTICLE XII ON AGENDA, PER REFTEL (B).

2. BECAUSE OF 10-DAY RULE FOR PLACING ITEMS ON COUNCIL AGENDA, MISSION TOLD BENEDIKTSSSEN AND GATT SECRETARIAT US WOULD RAISE ITEM UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS." BENEDIKTSSSEN EXPRESSED REGRET US CHOSE DISCUSS MATTER IN COUNCIL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01552 081457Z

WONDERED WHETHER WE HAD CONSIDERED DANGER THAT COUNCIL

DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT COULD INSPIRE OTHER COUNTRIES TO RAISE PREMATURELY BROADER GENERAL QUESTION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS TO MEET RISING PETROLEUM IMPORT COSTS. HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS FEELING IN REJKJAVIK THAT DISINVOCATION ART. XII HAD BEEN TOO HASTY AND THAT SOME CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO RE-INVOKING DUE TO NEW HIGH PRICE FOR PETROLEUM IMPORTS (FROM SOVIET UNION).

3. WE ASSUME WASHINGTON WOULD STILL WISH PLACE ITEM ON MARCH 28 COUNCIL AGENDA BUT THAT THIS ASPECT RAISED BY BENEDIKTSSSEN WILL BE CONSIDERED. MISSION BELIEVES THERE IS A SMALL RISK THAT SITUATION COULD DEVELOP AS ENVISAGED BY BENEDIKTSSSEN. IF IT SHOULD, THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT US APPEAL FOR COUNTRIES TO REFRAIN FROM ACTING UNILATERALLY. HOWEVER, SUCH BROADENED DISCUSSION, IF IT SHOULD DEVELOP, COULD BE CATALYST TO INSPIRE PREMATURE MOVES TO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES. ONE POSSIBLE WAY TO MAINTAIN LOW LEVEL OF ATTENTION TO SUBJECT WOULD BE FOR US NOT TO ADD ITEM TO AGENDA, BUT REQUEST LATER THAT IT BE CONSIDERED UNDER OTHER BUSINESS (EVEN THOUGH WE NOW HAVE TIME (BY MARCH 18) TO PLACE ITEM ON FULL AGENDA). WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON THIS POINT AS WELL AS FULL INSTRUCTIONS ON US POSITION PRIOR TO MARCH 18 SO WE CAN INFORM KEY DELEGATIONS OF OUR POSITION AND SUGGEST THEY GET INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR CAPITALS. DALE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, IMPORTS, PETROLEUM, IMPORT CONTROLS, PRICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAR 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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